

Cohasset Mariner

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As the Mariner goes to press Tuesday night, all news and advertising copy must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. Classified advertising must be received by Monday at noon. Readers are invited to submit personal items, accounts of social functions, meetings, weddings and engagements. Photographs (black and white glossy) are also welcome.

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Recreation Report

SPRING RECREATION PROGRAMS

All spring programs are currently filled with the exception of three openings left in the dog obedience and golf classes from 7:30 to 8:30, Monday evenings. If your dog is at least six months old and if you are interested in training him, please call the Recreation Office immediately as classes will begin shortly.

SUMMER '79 SCHEDULE

This summer the Recreation Department will offer the following activities and programs:

- Six-12 year old full day Playground Program.
- Four and 5 year old half day Playground Program.
- Youth Tennis Lessons
- Adult Tennis Lessons age 18 and over
- Morning Adult Tennis age 18 and over
- Gymnastics
- Summer Basketball Leagues
- Dog Obedience
- Golf Lessons
- Eight Movies (feature films every week)
- Six Band Concerts on Common
- Special events and trips

A six-page flier depicting all programs, activities and events will be available at the Recreation Office during the second week of June. The flier will also be handed out to school children.

Due to the success of the Summer Playground Program for 6-12 year olds, the department will institute a four and five year-old, half day, (9 a.m.-12 noon), program this summer as a supplement to the regular program.

In order for this program to be a success, we will need support from parents, and would request that each mother with a child in the half day program, volunteer a minimum of one morning per week to help out with activities. Also, we would like to see junior and senior high school students, who enjoy working with young children and would like a supervised experienced doing so, volunteer a few hours per week to help out. Volunteers may call the Recreation Office for details.

Not unlike the six-12 year old program, the four and five year olds will be offered a variety of low-organized games, group activities, arts and crafts, team sports, and many special activities, geared to their age level.

The program will be structured and offer the widest variety and exposure to as many different activities as possible.

John Worley
Recreation Director

Attend The Memorial Day Parade

Will The Voters Have Guts?

By Gilbert Tower

Will the voters of Cohasset be sufficiently informed and will they have the guts to attend a town meeting in September and vote to authorize the expenditure of a large amount of money for a sewage system? Briefly, that is the question confronting the town, as the writer now sees it up to this time.

The matter has been delayed and postponed for years. Now the time has come when the town must act. The town's share of the cost will be only 10 percent. 90 percent will be contributed by the federal government and the state. Every year of delay has increased the cost. Therefore, viewed from every angle we must make a decision.

It is not too much to say that the life of the town depends upon having a sewage disposal system. We have become accustomed to the idea that the ground absorbs water. Now that is not true. We are forced to change our thinking on that point. It is true that the ground in Cohasset will absorb water up to a point, but beyond that refuses to percolate. The difficulty is that there is ground water in the soil.

Sewage is mostly water. Water is from rain fall and also from town system of water pipes. Much of it flows into the ocean through street drains. Some of it is piped into houses where there are pipes conducting the water to cesspools and septic tanks. The principle of septic tanks, is that microbes, or bacteria, consume the human waste in the drainage from houses. The human waste is carried to the septic tank in water from waterclosets and the quantity depends upon the number of people who flush the toilets. Water conducted to septic tanks, consists also of so-called gray water from kitchen sinks, lavatories, bath tubs and shower baths.

Most people today do not remember the back-houses, or privies, which years ago used to be a common sight in the backyard of every house. Their purpose was to dispose of the human waste without the means of water. The disposal process was a dry process. If every domicile where people live in Cohasset could have a privy, or dry system of disposal we would not need any public disposal system so far as human waste is concerned. That idea would be impossible because now-a-days people live close together and there would not be enough land for privies, or back-houses.

For another reason a dry process for disposing of human waste is not practical because now-a-days sewage is mostly water from the flushing of water closets, kitchen sinks, clothes washing machines, bath tubs and so forth. All that water from house drains in former years used to be absorbed into the ground

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by means of cesspools, or septic tanks, that is to say that the system does not work. Generally speaking the soil in Cohasset refuses to absorb water. The soil will not percolate. That is why we must have sewer pipes to conduct a large quantity of waste water to the ocean. The disposal of human waste in the sewage water is only a part of the system. The disposal is accomplished by bacteria that eat it up, or by circulation of air which oxidizes, like burning it up.

Cohasset's public water dates from 1885. The installation of water pipes in houses resulted in bathrooms and water closets, and resulted in the eliminating of back houses. Bathrooms and flush toilets also destroyed the smell without protest.

They had to live with it. Now-a-days people's noses are so sensitive that the word "sewer" to them has an intolerable odor. That intolerable odor exists only in their imaginations. The writer has visited the Scituate treatment plant and is convinced that there is no noticeable odor. In Plymouth there is a restaurant 200 feet from the treatment plant and no complaints are made.

The writer has been working diligently with the purpose of bringing about a town decision in September. It appears that there is a hang-up somewhere and the intention has been to get the sewage matter off the hook. Between now and September, Cohasset voters must be informed so that they will attend a special town meeting and vote the money needed.

Every voter will be expected to have the guts to see his duty and to do it. By the word "guts" is meant determination, courage and confidence that the decision to be made will be the right decision. It is hoped that this letter will help to bring about a general understanding of the subject by voters.

The writer has been waiting to read a report from Metcalf and Eddy accompanied by an acceptance of the report by the sewer and water commissioners. It now appears that the method for informing voters has been different from the writer's understanding. We are told that the sewer commissioners meet on the first and third Monday evenings of each month and anyone interested was expected to attend the meetings. I have also found at the library voluminous reports by Metcalf and Eddy and a brief summary describing the sewage system proposed.

In the meantime a public spirited citizen has been urging consideration of a dry method of consuming human

waste. In the October 1968 issue of *Country Journal* there is a very excellent article telling all about dry methods of disposing of human waste. It is understood that one such method is called the "carousel, or merry-go-round" method. It has been urged that if that method were to be adopted by Cohasset it would not be necessary for the town to spend a huge amount of money. The writer does not see it that way, for this reason: there is much more to the problem than the disposal of human waste. There is a large quantity of gray water to be disposed of also.

Now the life of the town depends upon a public water service. Kitchen sinks and clothes washing machines mean that a lot of water must be conducted to somewhere. Privies, or dry methods like them would not be sufficient. They would not get rid of the wastewater. The proposed sewer system will dispose of both waste-water and human waste.

The dry method would not do that. Therefore it does not seem that the whole matter should be delayed to investigate the "carousel" idea. The engineers know all about that and it is understood they took it into consideration.

Right now the hang-up is that abutters interpose objections to every location proposed for the treatment plant. It is believed by the writer that their objections are based on misunderstanding. They would have no reason to be aggrieved because of any imagined effect of a treatment plant upon the values of their properties to themselves, or others.

Therefore the objections by abutters should not be permitted to stand in the way of a very important project. If abutters persist in their opposition the town should be ready with an article in the warrant to impose the procedure of eminent domain by which the properties of the abutters would be taken by the town to remove the objections. It would be painful to do this and hopefully it would not be necessary. Probably the objecting abutters will be convinced that a treatment plant near Whale Meadow would not be harmful to them. The proper place for the treatment plant will be in the meadow space between Bellamine House and Great Neck upland, meaning house lot properties south of Whiteheads Roads.

That area of filled marsh is now grown up with small trees. The next thing should be the preparation of a map showing where a treatment plant should be placed and how large it should be. Besides having no odor it would be noiseless and unobjectionable in appearance because it would be screened by trees. The town should own that marsh which was filled some

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